

AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND  
PACIFIC DIVISION, WEST COAST WING  
1503D AAF BASE UNIT  
Hamilton Field, California

201

24 November 1945

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO : 1st Lt. Gardner, Jack H.  
Route #2, Box 96, Gridley, California

1. Attached hereto find commendations from General George C. Kenney, Commanding General of the PAAF, Major General Wm Ord Ryan, Commanding General, Pacific Division, ATC, and Brig. Gen. E. H. Alexander, Commanding General, Southwest Pacific Wing, with indorsements by Major General Ryan and Brig Gen D. C. Strother, Commanding General, West Coast Wing. It is indeed gratifying to receive such letters as these three, and it is, therefore, with a great deal of pride that I add my commendation for the very important part you played in the so-called Mission 75.

2. The very nature of the task, calling for quick but well-planned operation, reflects credit on each one of you who played an important role in this mission. Only the typically American adaptability to changing situations made such an undertaking possible. The long, tedious hours of planning by the Operations and Maintenance Sections, the discomforts, hazardous weather, and extended overwater flights by the flight crews was performed with the minimum amount of perplexity. The mere fact that this complicated and highly involved flight was handled as routine, in itself, reflected the efficiency of this organization to the last man.

3. It is with pride that you can point to the part you played in the final phase of the World's greatest War. The expeditious manner in which this organization performed its task adds another laurel to which you can be justly proud.

4. These letters will be made a part of your permanent record.

*James W. Chapman Jr.*

JAMES W. CHAPMAN, JR.  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding

3 Incls.

1. Ltr Gen Ryan
2. Ltr Gen Kenney
3. Ltr Gen Alexander



**Aug 28, 1945** An advance communications team flew in to Atsugi Airfield near Tokyo. Under the protection of Imperial Army units, this team set up the control tower and communication equipment necessary for occupation forces to land. On Aug. 30, Mission 75 began, and it ended 13 days later without a single fatal aircraft accident. The 1,336 C-54 flights brought the 11th Airborne Division, the 27th Infantry Division and advanced echelons of Gen. MacArthur's headquarters, Far East Air Forces, the Eighth Army and an initial ATC detachment into Atsugi Airport.

**Aug 30, 1945** Special Mission 75 ferried 39,928 occupation troops and 8,202 tons of supplies from a staging area in Okinawa to Japan. The mission used 259 C-54s and 360 B-24 bombers as cargo planes and associated aircraft.

Jack's log book says he flew a C54-B and he carried 11th Airborne Infantry and 3 Jeeps from Okinawa to Tokyo (Atsugi)

On September 3, 1945, flew a C54-B from Okinawa to Tokyo (Atsugi) . He carried Office photographers and 3 jeeps.

<http://www.af.mil/information/heritage/milestones.asp?dec=1940&sd=01/01/1940&ed=12/31/1949>